

From: Clay Haapala
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 5:45pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to state my opinions as being against the proposed Microsoft settlement.

The settlement does little to punish Microsoft for its actions. Worse, it does nothing to provide remedy, or to "undo" the results of those monopolistic actions.

My career has been affected negatively by these actions, primarily by the way that Microsoft's product positions have affected the plans of the companies that have employed me. While it is always the case that the actions of a dominant market player will affect all others in that market space, it has now been established that Microsoft has partially obtained that position through illegal practices.

Since many of these practices involved illegal influences on Microsoft's part to prevent competition to its proprietary products, protocols, and interfaces, appropriate remedies would be a mandatory publishing of these protocols and interfaces.

Jackson's "split the company" remedy would have accomplished this by forcing the separated parts of the company to formally communicate with each other in public ways. Yes, competitors would certainly also be part of those communications, but then, the market winner becomes the one with the best product, sales, and service.

Such publication would also be a great step forward in security. Please see Bruce Schneier's and Adam Shostack's recent article at <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/315>.

I'm not demanding that Microsoft be broken up, but a publication remedy is appropriate.

Thank you.

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Clay Haapala <clay@haapi.mn.org> "A generation of CS and Quake Players
GPG key 8DB9110D being drafted is a scary thought."
2309 Archers Lane -- comment seen on
Minnetonka MN 55305 Drippy's 2-Fort TFC server
952-542-9873